(d) if not, by when the rest of the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) No committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Labour to stop delay in disposing of pending labour disputes in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts. The following steps are taken to ensure speedy disposal of pending cases:—

(i) Expeditious steps are being taken to fill up the vacant posts of Presiding Officers in Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts after observing all necessary formalities.

(ii) The need to reduce pendency of Industrial Dispute cases in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts is also impressed upon the Presiding Officers by taking this up with them from time to time.

(iii) A meeting of all Presiding Officers was held on 6-4-99 in which the need for expeditious disposal of pending cases was impressed upon all concerned.

(iv) A departmental manual of procedures for use of Presiding Officers in CGITs has been prepared. It is expected that this manual would be useful for the Presiding Officers to dispose of cases quickly.

(v) Keeping in view the norms prescribed for the disposal of industrial disputes and their pendency, a proposal to open more CGIT-cum-Labour Courts has been incorporated in the Ninth Five Year Plan, the criteria being the concentration of industries and number of industiral disputes in a region. Five new CGIT-cum-Labour Courts, one each at Lucknow, Nagpur, Chennai, Bhubaneswar and Hyderabad have been opened.

Women Labour in Construction Work

1348. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
DR. RAJA RAMANNA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of women labour in construction and road works continues to be cruel and women are exploited by contractors as cheap labour;

(b) if so, whether this could be stopped and replaced by more human methods perhaps using modern technology; and

(c) whether Government are considering to legislate against the use of manual labour of this sort by deterrent punishment to contractor since carrying heavy loads like large stones etc. are producing a sub-human species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The construction workers, which include women workers, are exposed to risks. As the workers are usually migrant, socially backward and illiterate, they have low bargaining power and can be exploited by the employers/contractors. To safeguard the interests of these workers, the Government have enacted two legislations namely Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and Building and Other Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996.

The Acts provide for certain welfare measures and details of health and safety measures to be adopted while carrying out the construction activities which, *inter-alia*, include safety measures to be adopted while using machines and other equipments and also specify different maximum weight limits to be lifted by hand or carried over head or over his/her back or shoulders by adult-man, adult-woman, adolescent-male and adolescent-female.

Number of Agricultural Workers

1349. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of agricultural workers and the minimum wages earned by them, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): A statement is enclosed (*See* below):

Statement

The number of agricultural workers and the minimum wages earned by them, State-wise.

S. No.	States/U.Ts.	No. of Landless Agricultural Labourers (As per 1991 Census)	Minimum wages fixed by State Governments as on 1.6.2000
	INDIA (excluding J & K)	74,597,744	—
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11,625,159	Rs. 30 to Rs. 36.50 p.d. (According to zones)